

SISTER M. LAURENE FETTER, O.S.F. 719

Born: April 20, 1900
Parents: Francis and Amalia Agel Fetter
Postulancy: September 17, 1918
Novitiate: August 12, 1919
First Profession: August 12, 1921
Final Profession: August 12, 1923
Died: Wednesday February 16, 1994 at 10:00 p.m.
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL



Ministry:

1920-21 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 1
1921-28 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grades 1,4,5,6,7
1928-29 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1929-32 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 8
1932-37 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior classes: Biology, Physiology, Plane Geometry, German
1937-40 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Freshman, Sophomore classes in Religion, English, World History, Business, General Science, Plane Geometry, Biology
1940-41 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Sophomore classes in English, Business Arithmetic
1941-52 Sts. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Sophomore classes in Religion, Biology, Plane Geometry, Homemaking
1952-54 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Sophomore classes in Religion, Geometry, Biology
1954-56 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Superior, High School Principal
1956-57 Catholic Charity Office, Toledo, OH, Social Work
1957-68 Alleman High School, Rock Island, IL, Geometry
1968-73 St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH, Mathematics, Geometry, Algebra
1973-91 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Retired
1991-94 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Friday, February 18, 1994
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Friday, February 18, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, February 19, 1994
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L351-G3

Survived by: her brother Clarence Fetter and sisters Bernadine Myers, Helen Mraz, and Rowena Smigelski and numerous nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Laurene Fetter was born in Columbus, Ohio on April 20, 1900 to Amalia and Frank Fetter. Baptized Marie at St. Mary's Church in German Village of Columbus, Ohio she spent her childhood surrounded by love in her large family with one brother and six sisters. After completing eighth grade, Marie became a Licensed Practical Nurse. When she was 18 years old, Marie came to Joliet to become a member of the Joliet Franciscan Sisters who had educated her at St. Mary's. Marie was received into the Novitiate on August 12, 1919 and given the name of Sister Mary Laurene.

Beginning her long ministry of Catholic education at St. Peter's Grade School in Mansfield, Ohio, Sister Laurene taught in many schools including St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Alleman High in Rock Island, Illinois, and Sts. Peter and Paul in South Chicago, St. Peter's Mansfield and St. Mary's Columbus. Her students remember her for the love and respect she gave them, for her vibrant personality and her gift of calling each by name. After teaching for over 50 years, Laurene returned to her home parish of St. Mary's in Columbus where she continued to spread her joy and hospitality to all she met. Sister Laurene was able to spend memorable time with her sister Alice Fetter Newmarker, and to be there for her family during Alice's sickness and death. Laurene Honey (as she was fondly called) enjoyed visiting with her family, enjoying the Friday night card group with her sisters. Her participation in the parish Bingo games brought joy and relaxation, and she loved to travel and meet new friends. In the spirit of St. Francis she also welcomed the traveler who came to the convent door, asking for food. Sister Laurene always added that "special extra" to whatever she prepared for them. Laurene was gracious to all she met.

After celebrating her 90th birthday at St. Mary's in Columbus, Sister Laurene prepared for her retirement to Our Lady of Angels in Joliet by having surgery for cataracts and carpal tunnel syndrome. She said she "wanted to go to OLA in good shape". Following the death of her sister Gertrude Fetter Burns, Sister Laurene came to our Lady of Angels in April of 1991. She was among the last three Franciscan Sisters to leave St. Mary's Parish in Columbus.

After a trip to Columbus for her sister Lucy Fetter Evans' funeral last April, Sister Laurene suffered a stroke, but it was only the past week that this valiant woman became progressively weaker. On Ash Wednesday her forehead was signed with the black cross of ashes. Sister Laurene convinced the nursing staff at OLA not to wash them from her face as they prepared her for bed that evening. So it was then, that marked with the sign of the cross, Laurene went quietly and serenely to meet her God.

As we send you forth, Sister Laurene, to make heaven your eternal home, we ask you to pray for us your family members, your friends and your Franciscan Sisters and Associates, that we may live our lives valiantly, welcoming the stranger, bringing love and random acts of kindness to all we meet. Amen. Alleluia.

